

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 NIC-01 /075 W
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R 071420Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1973

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL ROUNDUP

REF: LISBON 1243

1. PPD RALLY PEACEFUL:

DESPITE RUMORS OF VIOLENCE, PPD'S MARCH 6 LISBON RALLY (REFTEL)
TOOK PLACE PEACEFULLY. TROOPS WERE CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT, POLICE
"PROTECTION" WAS MINIMUM NECESSARY TO CONTROL TRAFFIC. ORDER
INSIDE DOWNTOWN HALL (FILLED TO 10,000 PERSON CAPACITY) WAS
MAINTAINED BY OVER 400 PHYSICALLY FIT YOUTHS DRAWN FROM PPD
AND JSD (PPD'S YOUTH BRANCH), WHO INSPECTED THOSE ENTERING TO
DETER HECKLERS AND SMUGGLING OF ARMS. SOME BEARDED YOUNG PEOPLE
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WERE TURNED AWAY. (AS WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FEB 25 RALLY

AT SAME SITE, HIRSUTE CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUNG MALES WERE LIMITED TO LONG HAIR.)

2. PPD ORATORS ATTACK PCP AND PS:

PPD RALLY SPEAKERS ATTACKED ALL OTHER ELECTION COMPETITORS, BUT MOST SEVERE CRITICISM WAS DIRECTED AGAINST COMMUNISTS (PCP) AND SOCIALISTS (PS). ORATORS REFERRED APPROVINGLY TO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC EXPERIENCE OF SCANDINAVIA, AND DISPARAGED EAST EUROPEAN POPULAR DEMOCRACIES. STALINIST TRADITIONS OF UNNAMED GROUPS, ACCORDING TO ONE SPEAKER, CONFRONT PORTUGAL NOT WITH A COUP THREAT BUT WITH A CONTINUING STATE OF COUP. PS WAS ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTING TO FOLLOW MARXIST PATH INTERNALLY, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ONE ABROAD; ON ONE HADN PS DENOUNCES DICTATORSHIP OF PROLETARIAT, ON OTHER IT SAYS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND REFORMIST SOLUTIONS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR PORTUGAL. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS DISMISSED WITH PROTEST THAT CHRISTIANITY IS MONOPOLY OF NO PARTY.

3. PS ATTACKS PRICE INCREASES:

OPORTO SOCIALIST UNIT HAS DENOUNCED GALLOPING PACE OF PRICE INCREASES (SUGAR, ELECTRICITY, CODFISH WENT UP RECENTLY, SUGAR NEARLY DOUBLING IN PRICE). OPORTO UNIT'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS ON HEALS OF HOUSEWIVES' PROTEST IN THAT CITY, IN WHICH SLOGANS CALLING FOR RETURN OF CAETANO WERE ALLEGEDLY CHANGED.

4. ELECTION COMMISSION DISCIPLINE:

MARCH 6 DECREE ISSUING FROM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS ENLARGED POWERS OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION OVERSEEING ELECTION PROCESS, ENABLING HIM TO EXPEL ANY COMMISSION MEMBER WHOSE CONDUCT (SUCH AS IDEOLOGICAL ATTACKS ON FELLOW MEMBERS) INTERFERES WITH THAT BODY'S WORK. DISCIPLINED MEMBER MAY APPEAL EXPULSION ORDER TO NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA BUT, IN MEANTIME, STAYS EXPELLED. THE DECREE HAS PROVOKED OPPOSITON FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS REPRESENTING FAR LEFT PARTIES, AGAINST WHOM DECREE ORDER CLEARLY IS DIRECTED. IN SEPARATE ACTION, COMMISSION HAS DETERMINED THAT ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN COUNTRY'S ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ARE TO BE CONSTITUTED BY ONE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT MEMBER AND ONE JUDGE.

5. STATUS OF ELECTORAL LISTS:

ONLY A FEW OF CANDIDATE LISTS PRESENTED BY 15 PARTIES IN ALL OR SOME OF PORTUGAL'S 22 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS (REFTEL) ARE FREE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IRREGULARITIES. PCP LIST WAS ONLY ONE IN LISBON TO MEET ALL STANDARDS SET BY LAW. SEVERAL FAR LEFT PARTIES RISK HAVING LISTS REJECTED IN ONE OR MORE DISTRICTS FOR FAILING TO IDENTIFY THEIR CANDIDATES PROPERLY, FAILING TO PRESENT SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF CANDIDATES, NOT IDENTIFYING PARTY OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION OF LISTS, ETC. MRPP INCLUDES AT LEAST THREE SOLDIERS ON ACTIVE DUTY ON ITS LISTS; SOLDIERS MUST HAVE PERMISSION OF THEIR SUPERIORS, MAKING FORCED ALTERATION OR REJECTION OF MRPP

LISTS VIRTUALL CERTAINTY.

6. PCP SAYS PPD THREATENED ITS MILITANTS:

PCP HAS COMPLAINED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS OF HARASSMENT, FOCUSING ITS CHARGES MOST RECENTLY ON PPD. LATEST CHARGE IS THAT ON MARCH 5 PPD MILITANTS TORE DOWN PCP WALL POSTERS (OR COVERED THEM UP WITH PPD ONES); WHEN PCP MEMBERS OBJECTED, PPD MILITANTS ALLEGEDLY PULLED GUNS AND THREATENED THEM.

7. PCP MAY SEEK ELIMINATE MRPP FROM ELECTION:

EMBASSY SOURCE, CONSIDERED RELIABLE, HAS ALLEGED THAT PCP PLANS (MANNER NOT DESCRIBED) TO MOVE AGAINST MRPP IN NEXT FEW DAYS. PCP'S AIM IS TO PROMPT GOVERNMENT BAN OR SIMILAR ACTION AGAINST MRPP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON01262
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750081-0429
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750373/aaaacngm.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 1243
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL ROUNDUP
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006